

**DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION
OFFICIAL ORDER NO. 09-01-D**

DATE: May 13, 2009
DATE EFFECTIVE: May 15, 2009
DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL: May 14, 2009
SUBJECT: Testing Requirements for cattle managed in Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, and Carbon Counties

STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION: 81-2-102(1)(d), Montana Code Annotated § 32.3.103, 32.3.104, 32.3.105, 32.3.116, Administrative Rules of Montana

ORDERED BY: Martin A. Zaluski, State Veterinarian



REVIEWED BY: Christian Mackay, Executive Officer, Department of Livestock



ORDER

USDA downgraded Montana's Brucellosis status to Class A in September 2008. The Montana Brucellosis Action plan aims to maintain marketability of Montana's livestock and facilitate regaining Class Free Status. Operations managing cattle (either year-round, or seasonally) within the seven counties of Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater or Carbon County (Area 1), will have the following requirements apply starting May 15th, 2009 until amended by statute, rule, or official order.

Variances or exceptions to these test requirements will be considered on an individual basis and will necessitate the livestock producer completing and submitting an Operation-Specific Risk Survey.

Testing:

A) Entire herd testing

- 1) All operations where primary ranching operation (calving/feeding/breeding) is within Area 1 and their livestock may interact with or share common landscape with brucellosis-exposed elk or bison.
- 2) All operations that graze seasonally in area where known brucellosis-infected or exposed elk have overwintered or calved on the shared landscape.
- 3) Test eligibly - all sexually intact cattle or domestic bison 12 months of age and older. Continues until entire herd testing completed in all herds in Area 1 (target completion date is December 31, 2009).
- 4) Herds conducting entire herd tests in 2008 may not be required to conduct additional herd test in 2009.

B) Movement testing

- 1) All sexually intact cattle or domestic bison 12 months of age and older tested within 30 days prior to movement from Area 1 to location outside Area 1.

2) Exceptions/variances:

- a) Steers and spayed heifers exempt from testing requirement.
- b) Testing for change of ownership is not required if the animal(s) are included in an entire herd test (Area 1) if the animals are sold within 30 days of the entire herd test.
- c) Testing within 30 days of change of ownership is not required if the animal(s) are included in an entire herd test conducted between July 15, 2009 and January 15, 2010 and the animals remain in Montana. *Federal regulations/importing states may require a test for export.*

C) Change of ownership / cull cattle testing

- 1) All sexually intact cattle or domestic bison 12 months of age and older tested within 30 days prior to, or at time of sale.
- 2) Testing to be performed on-farm/ranch or at 1st point of concentration (livestock markets).
- 3) Exceptions/variances:
 - a) See exceptions Section B.2

D) Individual animal identification

- 1) Official identification of sexually intact cattle or domestic bison 12 months-of-age and older prior to sale/change of ownership or permanent movement outside Area 1.
- 2) Identification options
 - a) OCV eartags (orange metal)
 - b) USDA, or USDA approved eartags (metal clips or RFID) or other identification approved by the state veterinarian.